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Senate

The Senate met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. STEVENS].

PRAYER

The Chaplain, ADM Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

God of power, God of love, thank You for bringing us through life's many trials and reminding us that we belong to You. Keep our feet on the right path. Forgive our failure to sometimes see beyond today's challenging events and our unwillingness to trust the unfolding of Your loving providence. Lord, open our eyes that we may see the invisible world of Your unstoppable purposes and catch a new vision of Your glorious design for our world. Guide our Senators. Make them Your agents to bless humankind. And again we ask that You would be a shield for our troops in harm's way. We pray this in Your strong name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable TED STEVENS led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this morning the Senate will immediately resume consideration of the Defense appropriations bill. Last night, we locked in an order of amendments to be offered over the course of the day. Although we have not locked in time agreements on these amendments, we expect to be voting on a couple of them

as early as 11 or 11:30 this morning. The chairman is here and is prepared to work through the remaining amendments to the bill. It is our expectation to complete this bill today or tonight.

As I stated yesterday, and as stated by the chairman as well, if—it is an “if”—we complete the Defense bill today and we are able to begin with the Homeland Security appropriations bill on Monday, there will be no rollcall votes during Friday's session. Again, that is if we complete the bill today. If not, we will go into tomorrow and have rollcall votes tomorrow.

Monday is a no-vote day. However, as has been mentioned on the floor, we would expect Members to be present on Monday to offer amendments to the Homeland Security bill.

As a reminder to all Senators, at 4 p.m. today the Prime Minister of Britain, the Right Honorable Tony Blair, will deliver an address to both Houses of Congress.

Senators have been notified—but I will remind them—that they are asked to gather in the Senate Chamber no later than 3:40 this afternoon in order to proceed to the Hall of the House of Representatives.

As we look ahead to next week, we will continue on the appropriations bills that are available. We will continue to have busy sessions throughout.

I remind Members that the last week prior to the recess will be devoted to completion of the Energy bill. I have been hoping to reach an agreement so that Members will file their amendments on the Energy bill no later than Wednesday of next week. That would enable the chairman and the ranking member to begin to work through the amendments prior to that final week of consideration.

I remind my colleagues that we began consideration of the Energy bill on May 6 of this year. I believe there has been more than adequate time to draft amendments, and therefore I hope

we can set this reasonable filing deadline. I know at this time there are objections on the other side of the aisle. However, I will continue to work with Senator DASCHLE and the assistant Democratic leader in an effort to reach this consent.

I thank all Members. As always, we will notify Senators as votes are scheduled throughout the day.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The assistant Democratic leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, first of all, Senator DODD has agreed to a time limit. As soon as the Senator has an opportunity to review his amendment, I am sure he will agree to that time limit.

Senator BYRD has an amendment he will offer following that. He said he would not agree to a time on this amendment, but he said he wouldn't take long.

As the leader knows, we have agreed to vote on Senator BYRD's amendment, and then Senator DODD wants a vote on his amendment after we complete the debate.

We have a list of the amendments we are going to offer. Senator BYRD has three. Other Senators have one each.

We should be able to move through this in a reasonable period of time—hopefully before too long. I assume the majority leader will have the Senate in recess from 3:30 until the time the Prime Minister of Britain completes his speech. I hope he follows the model and precedent of the most recent President as far as length is concerned so he doesn't take too much of our time off the floor.

The Senate will bring up the Energy bill. We worked hard on the Energy bill. Senator BINGAMAN and Senator DOMENICI have worked hard. But we have not even spent 2 full weeks on that bill. Last time we had 8 weeks. I

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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acknowledge that the last time, one of the reasons it took more time was ANWR, which this bill doesn't have in it. That will help us significantly. We will do what we did to cooperate with the majority on this bill.

As everyone knows, the Democratic leader wants this bill passed very badly. But I say to the distinguished majority leader, he can only do so much. There are more than 300 amendments on both sides. It will be a heavy task to get through this in a week.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I appreciate those comments. As I mentioned, we started on the Energy bill on May 6. We had 12 days of consideration on the floor of the Senate. The bill was marked up prior to that.

I have tried to lay this out from the outset recognizing that we are going to address the bill—and we spent 12 days on it—during the last week of this month so we can plan, so we can get amendments considered and get the list down to a manageable number.

The reason I come to the floor every day is that I want to encourage Members on both sides of the aisle to focus on this right now. I get this feeling and sense that people are going to say we are going too fast and we are running out of time. That is the only reason I stress this in just about every other statement and in every meeting. I think everybody understands that and is working. But I do want to complete this bill. We are setting adequate time to do that.

If we can come to some sort of agreement by midweek next week as to what amendments we will be looking at, it will be hugely helpful. That is what we are working for on both sides of the aisle.

PRIME MINISTER TONY BLAIR'S ADDRESS TO A JOINT MEETING OF CONGRESS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, let me comment briefly on Prime Minister Tony Blair's address to the joint meeting of Congress this afternoon. It is a historic time.

This afternoon, the Senate and the House of Representatives have that distinct honor of welcoming British Minister Tony Blair to address this joint meeting of the Congress. This type of address is the highest honor which Congress can bestow. Prime Minister Blair will be the fourth sitting Prime Minister of the United Kingdom to address a joint session of the United States and Congress, preceded only by Winston Churchill, Clement Richard Atlee, and Margaret Thatcher—three of history's greatest leaders.

Today's historic tribute signifies our abiding friendship and our deep respect not only for the Prime Minister but for the great people of the United Kingdom.

Throughout the last century, the United Kingdom and the United States

have stood shoulder to shoulder to defend the free people of the world. That is because our two nations share more than just history. We share deeply held principles of devotion to governance with the consent of the electorate, a devotion to justice based on the rule of law and the principles of due process and devotion to economic freedom based on a belief that every individual should be free to express his or her God-given talents.

Together, the United States and the United Kingdom defeated the twin evils of fascism and communism. Today, we stand together to defend democracy everywhere.

In Africa, the Middle East, and Europe, Prime Minister Blair has led the way to bring freedom to the oppressed, relief to the suffering, and the promise of peace to those living in war-torn regions.

In Sierra Leone, Prime Minister Blair led the effort to end a brutal and senseless civil war. In Kosovo and the Balkans, the Prime Minister rallied our two great nations to bring stability and security to that troubled region. In our great time of need, Prime Minister Blair has shown tremendous courage; he has shown tremendous resolve to defeat our enemies no matter how deep their caves or how fearsome their arsenal.

In Afghanistan, the United Kingdom contributed forces to Operation Enduring Freedom and led the International Security Assistance Force. In Iraq, Prime Minister Blair worked tirelessly to build the coalition to free the Iraqi people from the savagery of Saddam Hussein, a man who—and we should never forget this—used chemical weapons to commit mass murder against his neighbors as well as his own people.

Under the Prime Minister's leadership, the United Kingdom sent over 30,000 troops—nearly a fourth of the British military—to fight alongside our valiant women and men.

We are grateful for the Prime Minister and the British people for their strength and their resolve.

This afternoon, on behalf of the people of the United States, we will pay tribute to the Prime Minister for his courage and his vision. We will listen to his counsel. We will reaffirm the bond between our two great nations, purchased not by treasure or self-interest but by loyalty and brave mutual sacrifice.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2004

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 2658, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2658) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senator from Iowa, Mr. HARKIN, is recognized for not to exceed 25 minutes.

The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, some of this week's news headlines and lead stories on the evening news, when looked at together, raise important questions about our direction as a country and about key Federal Government policy—both economic policy and foreign policy. The economic issues raised affect the quality of life of every American family and the future of our children. The foreign policy issues touch on the reasons that thousands of Americans are deployed today in perilous circumstances in Iraq. As we all know, our soldiers are risking their lives daily in Iraq, and daily American troops are being killed.

On the economic front, the front page of the Washington Post reported earlier this week that the White House now projects that the Federal budget deficit will top \$450 billion this year: "Budget Deficit May Surpass \$450 billion." That is 50 percent higher than the administration predicted just 6 months ago. In 6 months it has increased by 50 percent. The administration's Office of Management and Budget also predicts a \$475 billion deficit for next year.

Now, a couple times in my remarks this morning I will be talking about low-balling. I think the \$450 billion budget deficit figure is a low-ball figure. I think the \$475 billion budget deficit estimate for next year is also a low-ball figure. I think they are both going to be in the neighborhood of \$½ trillion or more.

Why could I possibly say that? One reason is that the projected \$475 billion deficit for next year does not include any accounting for the cost of the war in Iraq, or for our continued operations in Afghanistan. It is simply not there, as though it costs us nothing.

We now know, thanks to the recent hearing held by the Senate Armed Services Committee and the continued questioning of Secretary Rumsfeld, who at first did not have the figures for how much it was costing us on a monthly basis in Iraq, but was pressured by the Senators on the Armed Services Committee to get the figures during a break when the Senators came to vote—well, he came back, and what did we learn? We learned from Secretary Rumsfeld that the cost of our operations in Iraq are now running at about \$4 billion a month. That is \$1 billion a week.

Again, to those of us who have been around here for some time, and have seen how these figures have been skewed in the past, I also think that is a low-ball figure. I think the figures of our operations in Iraq, when all is said